President.—We did not bring in a new man to his place. There was gradual promotion in the office.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will his acting be considered as a claim for future appointments?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—No.

87. **Mr. C. A. Ouseph.**—Will the Government be pleased to place a statement on the table showing the number of Government officers of a rank below that of the Secretary to the Diwan and drawing a salary higher than that of Mr. T. S. Sesha Ayyar, acting Secretary to the Diwan, on the day previous to the one on which Mr. Sesha Ayyar was first appointed to act as Secretary to the Diwan?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—The *Civil List* may be referred to for the information asked for.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—May I know which *Civil List* I am referred to?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—The Cochin *Civil List* corrected up to Kumbham 1102.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Sir, the information I want is the information available on the day previous to the one on which Mr. Sesha Ayyar was appointed as Secretary to the Diwan, that is, in Edavam, so that the information cannot be had from that *Civil List*. Why should wrong information be given?

President.—No such comments are necessary. You put a question, and you are entitled to get an answer. The question asked is to place a statement showing the number of Government officers of a rank below that of the Secretary to the Diwan and drawing a salary higher than that of Mr. T. S. Sesha Ayyar on the day previous to the one on which he was first appointed to act as Secretary to the Diwan. So the information asked for must relate to a period just preceding the day of appointment of Mr. Sesha Ayyar.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—That is what I want.

President.—So that *the Civil List* referred to cannot furnish that information, and if information is necessary, a list has to be specially prepared. That is the answer.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Shall I have it?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—There will be no material difference between such a list and *the Civil List* corrected up to the 1st of Kumbham.

President.—Anyhow it can be prepared.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph—In *the Civil List* there are 92 appointments between these two posts.

President.—This is a matter which we were not unaware of. We knew that there were many qualified persons above

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Mr. Sesha Ayyar. But we did not want to disturb the arrangements in the office, and Mr. Sesha Ayyar was readily available there to carry on the work. The man who comes from outside, even though he may be a qualified man, will take some time to know the state of things in the office, and by the time he understands the work, he will have to be sent away.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—And the leave itself was very short.

President.—These are matters in which the Government is expected to act with some discretion, and Government has exercised its discretion in a proper way.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—I don't think so, Sir.

President.—You may not agree. That is another matter.

Auction of tobacco shops.

88. **Mr. K. T. Mathew.**—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether the Diwan or the Government has received a printed petition from the people of Vellarappalli about the sale of tobacco and the auction of tobacco shops in that village; and if so,

(b) whether the Government will print as appendix and place on the table paragraphs 10, 11, 14, 15 and 16 of the petition referred to;

(c) whether any enquiry has been made with reference to the allegation contained therein; and if so, who made the enquiry, and when and what is its result;

(d) whether any reply has been given to the petitioners;

(e) what steps have been taken by the Government to redress their grievances;

(f) whether the official papers with reference to this petition will be placed on the table?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—(a) Yes.

(b) The petition itself is placed on the Secretary's table.

(c) An enquiry was made by the Kanayannur Inspector between 9th Makaram 1102 to 20th Edavam 1102, and the result was that the imputations made in the petition were found to be not well founded.

(d) The petitioners were informed that there are no sufficient grounds to interfere in the matter.

(e) No answer is necessary in view of the reply to part (d).

(f) The Government do not consider it necessary to do so.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Have the Government perused the allegations contained in the petition?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—The allegations are absolutely unfounded.

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